

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/020 W

----- 089313

R 070610Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4273

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4061

PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

USIA/IEA FOR DEP. ASST. DIR. CLIFTON FORSTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, US, LA

SUBJ: STATUS OF MR. BOUAPHET SYGNAVONG

1. COUNSELOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PATE HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM FORMER DIRECTOR OF PRESS AT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IN VIENTIANE, BOUAPHET SYGNAVONG, INFORMING HIM THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE LEFT LAOS FOR GOOD AND ARE TEMPORARILY LIVING IN FRANCE. THEIR CURRENT ADDRESS IS:

C/O MR. LUANG APHAY

197 AVENUE DE VERDUN 942000

AVRY-SUR-SEINE

2. BOUAPHET IS A LONG TIME FRIEND OF THIS MISSION AND OF THE UNITED STATES. HE ATTENDED DARTMOUTH AS AN UNDER-GRADUATE AND FINISHED HIS STUDIES IN FRANCE. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT AND ENGAGING PERSON WHO SHOWED UNUSUAL COURAGE IN WANING DAYS OF VIENTIANE SIDE BY STANDING UP AGAINST PL EFFORTS TO CENSOR PRESS. IN FEBRUARY HE WAS EASED OUT OF HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF PRESS BY LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT CHEF DU CABINET DR. KHAMSENGKEO, BUT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAVED MOMENTARILY FROM OBLIVION BY OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG,

SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION, WHO MADE BOUAPHET HIS ATTACHE DE CABINET. BOUAPHET CONTINUED AT SAME TIME TO WRITE FORTHRIGHT AND HIGHLY INDEPENDENT EDITORIALS FOR THE DAILY PUBLICATION "TRADUCTIONS", WHICH BEGAN BY CARRYING TRANSLATIONS OF ARTICLES FROM LAO-LANGUAGE PRESS BUT EXPANDED AND GREW IN IMPORTANCE UNDER BOUAPHET'S TUTELAGE. HE WAS ALSO EDITOR OF VIENTIANE SIDE'S NEWSPAPER, THE VIENTIANE PROGRESSIVE, WHICH DURING ITS SHORT LIFETIME PUT THE CASE FOR THE VIETIANE SIDE AS WELL AS ANYONE EVER DID AND IN PROCESS ANTAGONIZED THE LPF.

3. BOUAPHET AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER MININFO OFFICIALS WHO FOR MONTHS HAD RESISTED LPF WERE CLEARLY HIGH ON LIST OF THOSE TO BE PURGED. IT IS NOT ASTONISHING THEREFORE THAT HE CHOSE TO FLEE LAOS AND IS NOW SEEKING TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF ELSEWHERE. HIS WIFE WAS SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT ROYAL SCHOOL OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION AND IS PREGNANT.

4. BOOAAUAPHET'S LETTER TO PATE STATES THAT H WISHES TO GO TO U.S. FOR FURTHER STUDIES OR EMPLOYMENT. THERE ARE MANY USG OFFICIALS HERE AND IN WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO HELP HIM IF THEY CAN. WOULD APPRECIATE PRATT'S CONTACTING BOUAPHET TO CHECK ON HIS WELFARE AND ASCERTAIN HIS FUTURE PLANS. ON BASIS HIS PAST PERFORMANCE AND CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH USG, WE BELIEVE HE QUALIFIED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WE CAN GIVE.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2003  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF MR. BOUAPHET SYGNAVONG  
**TAGS:** SREF, US, LA, (BOUAPHET SYGNAVONG)  
**To:** PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
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